

THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL



Counsellor

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Vol. 15 No. 2

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

February-March, 1970

MUNICIPAL AID IS THIRD OF BUDGET MORE FOR HOUSING: PLANNING

o IN ESTIMATES FOR MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

Total direct and indirect provincial assistance to municipalities in Alberta will amount to \$403,991,728 for the 1970 - 71 fiscal year. This is \$42,000,000 more than last year and amounts to more than one-third of the provincial budget. This is revealed in provincial estimates adopted in the 1970 session of the Alberta Legislature.

Direct municipal assistance grants, arrived at on the basis of one-third of oil and natural gas royalties, will increase nearly 12 per cent in 1970 to \$37,739,595. These grants were unconditional in previous years, but the government is now proposing an amendment to the Act whereby a municipality may be required to apply all or a portion of the grant to alleviate or control pollution for which the municipality is responsible.

Ten million provincial dollars will be available under the Municipal Land Loans Act for right-of-way acquisitions.

Hospitals

The four-mill levy on property for hospital insurance has been eliminated and replaced by an adjustment in premiums.

Schools

An additional \$42,100,000 has been placed in the School Foundation Program bringing the total provincial contribution to \$198,000,000. The municipal contribution is increased from 28 mills to 30 mills.

Estimated expenditures for the Department of Municipal Affairs in 1970 - 71 are \$51,343,536, an increase of \$39,632,636 over 1969 - 70.

Housing

A new Housing Act proposes renaming the Alberta Housing and Urban Renewal Corporation to Alberta Housing Corporation and giving it more money with wider power to deal with additional matters related to housing. The new AHC, a Crown Corporation, will then have authority to borrow on its own account, subject to approval of the Executive Council. It will have an extensive capital program approaching \$40,000,000 in 1970 including \$21,000,000 for land

More BUDGET page Eleven

AAMDC SPRING MEET APRIL 8

Annual Spring Meeting of the Association of Municipal Districts and Counties is scheduled for April 9 in the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton.

The Story of Rural Municipal Government in Alberta
1909 - 1969

A Diamond Jubilee project of the Association, this 362 page, hard-covered book gives the early history of the Association and its members. It is now published and Secretary-manager Jack Edworthy distributed 1300 copies in March to meet pre-publication orders. Price \$7.00.

For AAMDC CONVENTION NOTES see page Four



ASSESSORS STUDY IN EDMONTON

These District Assessors attended the fourth serial (Feb 2-13) of the in-service training courses started recently in the Department of Municipal Affairs. (L to R) Back Row: G.C. BASLER, H.J. TAIT, A.M. DUNCAN, J.M. SCHMIDT, P.N. ADAMSON, W.L. ST. JOHN, E.J. WHITE. Middle Row: R. PATRY, R.G. GAGNE, R.J. JORGENSEN, R.L. CORMACK, R.E. BARKER, J.M. SWELIN, C.D. COTTRELL, N.D. JENSEN. Front Row: A.S. FENTON, D.E. HANSON, D.A. MCTAVISH (Supervisor), R.I. WOODWARD and G. SKOREYKO.

Candidates are called from all over Alberta for these courses in Edmonton. New trainees made up the first two serials. Assessors II attended the third serial in January and this, the fourth, in February.

Another six serials (classes) are planned for 1970, with the first of these to be shortly after the Assessor's conference in April. More PROPERTY ASSESSOR TRAINING Page Five

BRANCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

DEPUTY MINISTER'S OFFICE

Demand for Departmental services continued to increase in line with the growth which was a feature in most of our municipalities during 1969.

Major re-organization and staff changes occurred in several branches.



Assessors were particularly busy. Decentralization of this service was continued and some new district offices were opened. A start was made on a new series of ab initio and up-grading courses for the increasing number of assessors recruited and working in the Department.

Improvement Districts were reduced in number from 51 to 24 and so consolidated into more economic units.

The New Town of Grande Cache started to function after receiving its first permanent residents late in the year.

More BRANCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED Page Eight

THE SECOND PAGE . . .



THROUGH THE MAIL

180 Howell Branch Road
Winter Park, Florida
32789, U.S.A.

EDITOR, THE COUNSELLOR:

My father, Mr. W.S. Wiseman, who was in municipal service in the Camrose area for 38 years, passed away at Cornwall, Ontario, December 13, 1968. His remains rest at the St. Lawrence Valley Union Cemetery at Ingleside, Ontario.

Among his effects I recently found an article in your COUNSELLOR of September 1959 about his retirement. So I thought you would be interested in his death in view of his long standing as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District of Camrose.

It is a shame he did not live to see his eldest grandson Peter Travis, play football for the Edmonton Eskimos as he will be doing in 1970. Besides Peter, the other grandchildren are Keith and June Travis. My sister June died of cancer in 1960 leaving a son William McKenzie who now resides in Hamilton, Ontario.

Should anybody who knew Father be down this way, we would be delighted to extend our hospitality.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Peggy Travis

County of Grande Prairie No. 1

EDITOR, THE COUNSELLOR:

I thought you might enjoy this as much as I did when I received it.

After writing a pretty strong letter to a man who was in arrears on payment for the purchase of a building from the County, I received a letter from him enclosing a payment, - no comment in the letter, - but when we looked at the envelope we noticed he got his job at me in a rather unusual way. We had quite a kick out of it and thought you might too ---!

W.R. Weber, Secretary,

Secretary Treasurer
County of Grande Prairie
Alberta

189 Indians Go to Universities

More than 7,000 Indians living on reserves attend high school and another 189 are in university, Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chretien told the Commons recently.

He said 161,695 Indians live on reservations and 54,220 do not.
o Kainai News

THE CHANGING SCENE

o TOWNS

Drayton Valley.....Mayor.....T.W. Johnson
Hanna.....Municipal Secretary.....H.W. Walker
Lodgepole.....Town Dissolved Effective March 1st, 1970
Now Hamlin
Mayerthorpe.....Acting Municipal Secretary..Mrs. E. Glazier
Redcliff.....Municipal Secretary.....H.W. Beach
Valleyview.....Mayor.....E.L. Bonertz

o VILLAGES

Champion.....Mayor.....E.D. Newlin
Craigville.....Mayor.....D.F. Rees
Glenwood.....Municipal Secretary...Mrs. F.D. Archibald
Onoway.....Municipal Secretary..Mrs. C. Schlichenmayer
Rycroft.....Municipal Secretary.....N.E. Persson
Veteran.....Municipal Secretary.....V.A. Melin

o SUMMER VILLAGES

Poplar Bay.....Municipal Secretary..Mrs. J.T. Van Elslande
Southview.....Municipal Secretary.....Miss B.M. Moritz
13407 - 92 Street, Edmonton, Phone No. 476 - 4053
Sundance Beach.....Administrator.....E.J. Briscoe
10363 - 108 Street, Edmonton
Municipal Secretary.....P. Stewart
15010 - 78 Avenue, Edmonton

o CITIES

Wetaskiwin.....Mayor.....Dr. L. Johnson
Acting City Clerk.....N. Dick

o NATIONAL PARKS

Jasper.....Superintendent.....J. Christakos
Townsite Manager.....S.F. Wright

SUNDANCE BEACH S.V. INCORPORATED JANUARY 1

The summer village of Sundance Beach was incorporated effective January 1,1970 under authority of Order-in-Council 146/70.

Sundance Beach is in the County of Leduc on the north shore of Pigeon Lake west of the summer village of Itaska Beach.

The village has 93 dwelling units. Property assessment in 1969 was \$155,100, made up of \$49,930 in land and \$105,170 in improvements.

Origin of the name is not known. First recorded mention of the name is when the sub-division (#4816 HW) was registered on June 25, 1953.

Nomination day is June 6, 1970 and election day, if necessary, July 4, 1970. Mr. E.J. Briscoe of 10363 - 108 Street, Edmonton is administrator until a mayor and council are elected.

South View Summer Village on Lake Isle was also incorporated January 1, 1970. These two new villages bring the number of summer villages to 32 in Alberta.

The Public Utilities Board changed its address January 1,1970:

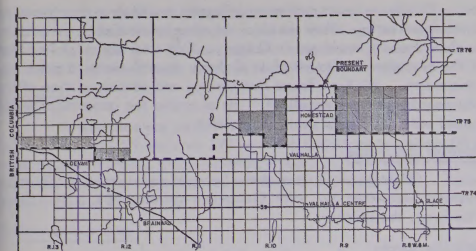
From: 304 Empire Building
10080 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton 15, Alberta
Phone No. 424 - 0202

To: 900 Devonian Building
11160 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton 14, Alberta
Phone No. 488 - 7281

THE ALBERTA MUNICIPAL COUNSELLOR

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Department of Municipal Affairs
Edmonton, Alberta

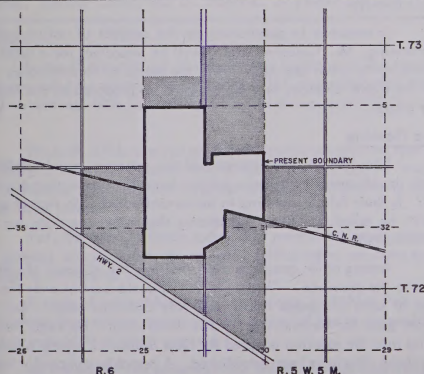


The county of Grande Prairie has received approval to annex 44 sections of land bordering its northern boundary. Approval came in a Local Authorities Board decision January 28 following a hearing last November.

The annexed lands are in three large tracts north of La Glace, north and west of Valhalla, and north of the Demmitt area.

These lands were formerly in ID 20 with administrative headquarters in Spirit River, but are physically connected to the county as they are on the southern, Wapiti side of the watershed with their access roads, power and telephone likewise in that direction. The county provides school and some other services to the region.

The Department of Education has received an application from the County of Grande Prairie School Committee to incorporate these annexed lands within the county for school taxation purposes.



The Town of Slave Lake has tripled in land area with Local Authorities Board authority to annex approximately two sections of land from neighbouring Improvement District No. 17 effective January 1, 1970. The annexation brings 143 people into the town. Population is now 2,059.

About 185 townships have been transferred from Improvement District 23 to Improvement District 17, in the northern part of the province.

The boundary between ID 23 and ID 17 has been shifted north so that it is now the north boundary of the Township 96 between the Fifth Meridian and the Peace River. The boundary between ID 17 and ID 18 was also changed so that it now extends north to the north

SECRETARY'S CALENDAR

				1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

Prepare cash statement (Section 58).

A by-law to provide for the assessment of business if required must be passed not later than May 1st in any year. (Section 75).

- o - THE TAX RECOVERY ACT - o -

Every parcel with a subsisting tax recovery notification shall be offered for sale not less than 1 year but within three years from April 1st of the year in which the tax notification is registered (Section 9).

						1
	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- o - THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ACT - o -

Prepare cash statement (Section 58).

- o - THE SCHOOL ACT - o -

First payment of School Foundation Program Fund payable on or before first day of June (Section 304a).

- o - THE MUNICIPAL TAXATION ACT - o -

The Secretary-Treasurer shall on or before a date to be fixed by council prepare a tax roll and proceed to collect taxes specified therein (Section 98).

Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare a statement of Provincial Grants and mail same with the tax notices (Section 103).

- Copy of tax notice and statement of grants to be forwarded to Department of Municipal Affairs.

boundary of Township 96 and thence west to the Fifth Meridian.

The new boundaries conform with working arrangements developed in the area by the Northern Alberta Development Council and agencies related to the Human Resources Development Authority.

For assessment purposes, the change was effective December 31, 1969.

Lodgepole dissolved as a New Town and reverted to the status of hamlet in the county of Parkland effective March 1. Reversion came after development did not materialize sufficiently for the New Town to adopt the ordinary form of a regular town or village. All New Town loans and advances were repaid to the province prior to reversion.

The hamlet of Lodgepole, about 20 miles SW of Drayton Valley, was originally raised to New Town status and enlarged to three sections of land on July 1, 1956. Prior to that it had been a small settlement in old ID 77 with most of its land and development under control of the Department of Lands and Forests.

Beattie Cummings was the New Town's first Secretary-treasurer. Others, in succession, were: Louis Brodeur, March 1957-January 1960; Frank C. Leadlay, February 1960 - June 1964; Eric T. Proehl, 1964 - 1968; and Mrs. Bertha E. Erickson, August 1968 to dissolution.

Peak population was reached in 1961 with 508 persons. There were 207 residents in 1969. Assessment in 1956 was \$15,640 and in 1969 was \$319,740.

Agriculture, oil production and some forestry are principal interests in the area. The Brazeau storage and power dam is nearby.

Six New Towns remain: Fort McMurray, Fox Creek, Grande Cache, High Level, Rainbow Lake and Whitecourt. •

A feed store is about the only place left these days where you can get a chicken dinner for a dime.

AAMDC CONVENTION NOTES

(Continued from Page One)

Diamond Jubilee Convention Well Attended in November

Some three hundred and thirty association delegates attended their 61st Annual Convention in the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton, November 18-21, 1969. This was their Diamond Jubilee Convention, as it marked 60 completed years of organized rural government in Alberta.

Ralph Brown of Acme in MD of Kneehill was re-elected President and Roger Parker of Ardrossan in Strathcona was returned Vice-President. C.L. "Cliff" Doan of Innisfail in Red Deer is immediate past-president.

Rudolph Zander of Tomahawk in Parkland was re-elected director. Continuing as directors are George Whitehead, Claresholm; Art Wigmore, Lacombe; and John Stromstedt, Berwyn.

Opened by Premier Harry Strom, four topics highlighted its proceedings; assessment, taxation, farm produce marketing, and dust control on rural roads.



Name Remains

Delegates roundly defeated a motion from the MD of Rocky View that would have changed the name of their association to "Alberta Association of Rural Municipalities". Rocky View argued that A.A.R.M. could be pronounced "ARM" and associated with a slogan "Alberta Association of Rural Municipalities". "The AARM of the rural people".

President's Address

In his address on opening day, President Ralph Brown dealt at length with Association activities designed to support the needs of rural local government.

Secretary-Manager Jack Edworthy reported for the Co-op Trading and Jubilee Insurance.

Forty-four Resolutions

Forty-four resolutions were proposed. Three failed to obtain a seconder, four were defeated, one withdrawn, three tabled for further study and thirty-three were adopted with only a few being re-drafted from the floor or in committee.

The perennial problem of devising an assessment scheme that would allow for taxation of residences constructed in the country and occupied by other than people engaged in farming was again given considerable study and debate. The group favoured the assessment of all residences in rural municipalities but considered taxes be levied on either the assessment of the residence or assessment of the partial land on which the residence is located or where a farm unit consists of more than one parcel of land the total assessment of the land which comprises the farm unit whichever is the highest assessment.

A very interesting panel was held on paving and comprised members of counties across the province where various schemes have been tried to improve road surfaces. This was a very timely topic as the Minister of Highways and Transport announced to the convention that his Department was now prepared to recognize money spent for dustproofing and paving whether or not it is up to the standard used on provincial highways.

Changing times create new problems and some discussion was held on regulations to control the operation of skidoos on rural roads. It seemed generally agreed that these units should be confined to the ditch area only as they create a hazard to the operators when in a regular traffic lane.

Three resolutions were for the Western Union of Municipalities.

All successful resolutions were presented by the Association Executive on December 12 to the Executive Council of Alberta.

Convention Remains in Edmonton

The city of Edmonton won in a tussle with Calgary over the location of future AAMDC conventions. One of the opening by-law amendment proposals stated that "the annual convention shall be held in Edmonton on dates selected by the executive". There was vigorous debate from southern delegates who queried Calgary being left out of the picture so completely.

Said secretary-manager Jack Edworthy in support of the mo-

tion: "We have found that more delegates and their wives attend an Edmonton meeting. Here we enjoy the attendance of more government leaders than we would get in Calgary. Our costs are much less than if the executive had to travel to Calgary several times to make arrangements. We have found that service and accommodation at the Macdonald has been excellent." He seconded the amendment which passed with about a 63 per-cent majority.

Banquet and Dance

Eight hundred were at the banquet and dance held Thursday evening November 20, with Lieutenant-governor Dr. J.W. Grant MacEwan, the speaker.

Solicitor speaks

Association Solicitor, Alan Brownlee QC, of Edmonton spoke November 19. His three-part presentation dealt with court decisions, problems of ownership of watercourses and creek beds, and the responsibility of MD's and Counties in student affairs.

He noted that an MD or county board is theoretically responsible for a child from the time he is picked up in the morning until the late afternoon and he cited board responsibility as a big problem when a student faces emergency attention.

He wondered if there is a possible parental responsibility gap because of a lack of communication between parents and the school. There have been cases of a teacher, principal or caretaker having to admit a sick child into hospital or placed under doctor's care. This most significant, serious problem of student responsibility and authority is an "up in the air" situation, he concluded.

On a different matter -- that of creek beds and watercourses -- the solicitor said: "I am still looking for a legal definition of a watercourse". He warned that existing federal laws make it an offence for a farmer to move across or trespass a watercourse.

Hon. F.C. Colborne, Minister of Municipal Affairs, spoke November 19. On the subject of regional government, Mr. Colborne indicated there was no enthusiasm evident for this in a recent meeting among mayors of ten Alberta cities. The consensus of that meeting, Mr. Colborne revealed, was that the objectives of regional government could be achieved by expanding the techniques used for regional planning in specific areas -- such as hospital and health concerns.

"The prime disadvantage the mayors saw was that such a proposal might create a fourth level of government," the Minister said. "Many people believe three levels of government is enough for this country."

In response to questioning on the subject of native Indians and planning, Mr. Colborne said it will be important for a rural administration to learn and know what the status of reserve lands will be in the event changes are implemented as proposed in the federal white paper.

Future Planning

"Are they to become part of the adjacent municipalities? Is their development to become subject to regional planning commissions? Is their future planning to be co-ordinated with that of other areas?" he asked. "These are among the many questions we will need answers to."

Among other questions discussed was the disposal of old car bodies in the province. "We do have adequate control over the location of auto wreckage facilities, Mr. Colborne said. "But the problem goes far beyond this." His department, he said, is now looking into the solution adopted by New Brunswick where a number of car dump sites have been established. A portable compressor operated by a private company crushes the metal parts to a small package which can be disposed as scrap.

Subject Studies

"We and the Transport Department are now studying the situation," he said.

Vic McCune, Chief Engineer, Department of Highways & Transport, also spoke November 19. He spelled out municipal responsibility in providing access and service roads and intimated that in the interests of safety and convenience, his Department is willing to go along in most instances in the construction and maintenance of service roads.

Dr. Hu Harries

Dr. Hugh Harries, consultant for the Association, spoke Thursday morning November 20, on the prime convention topic, "Assessment and Taxation". He recommended a "budget capitalization

approach to farm land valuation that would use lower capitalization rates to recognize the contribution of farm buildings to the capital value of the property". He also said the assessment of farm buildings commends itself when their value exceeds that of the land.

Attendance

Attendance was up over 1968. There were nine more councillor delegates (299 vis a vis 290 in 1968) and 41 more visitors (394 vis a vis 353 in 1968). Forty secretary-treasurers were there. All 48 MD's and Counties are voluntary members in the association. Total attendance was 693.

Six Former Members

A page in memorandum of the following former members was included in the convention handbook. They had all died in the interval since the last convention. EDWARD HENRY ENDERS, Councillor 1955 - 64 in County of Barrhead; JOHN A. MACARTHUR, Councillor 1927 - 69 in County of Wheatland; JOHN RIDDOCK, Secretary-Treasurer 1946 - 66 in County of Mountain View; MIKE SIRACKY, Councillor 1948 - 57 in County of Lamont; ERNEST STAUFFER, Councillor 1955 - 64 in County of Stettler and JOHN LESSARD, former Secretary in MD of Smoky River.

Lightweight Result

There were some heavyweights at the convention but at least three of them were a lot lighter than they were five or six months earlier. It all started at the Refresher Course in Banff last June when President Ralph Brown, Reeve Steve Shwetz of Thorhild and secretary-manager, Jack Edworthy, each tipping the scales at more than 200 pounds, made a little bet they could get below the 200-mark before the annual meeting. The hilarious proof of the contest was staged on opening day when the three men had to strip to their shorts and weigh in. There were no losers -- they were all lightweights.

Long Service Awards

Fifteen men with 30 years or more of municipal service received congratulations and a hearty thank you with presentation of awards. Included in this group were: L. Williams, 39 years, Stettler; J. Ware, 38 years, Wetaskiwin; A. Hawkins, 37 years, Strathcona; J. Goettler, 36 years, Foothills; W. Bradbury, 34 years, Leduc; J. Deitz 34 years, Vulcan; N. Jensen, 34 years, Taber; E. Cammaert, 33 years, Wheatland; G. Moyer, 33 years, Strathcona; L. Van Tigham, 33 years, Foothills; W. Madill, 32 years, Lethbridge; Steve Mulka, 32 years, Two Hills; G. Boyak, 31 years, Rocky View; T. Hammond 31 years, Pincher Creek; and G. Schultz, 30 years, Barrhead.

WORDS

Some 45 minutes out of every hour, supervisors and managers are surrounded by words. Five percent of this communication time is spent in writing, 10% in reading, 35% in talking, and 50% in listening.

The bulk of the research on listening efficiency shows that after a 10 minute talk, only about 50% of what was said can be recalled by the listener and with average attention, only 25% is retained after 48 hours later.

Yet, the need to listen today is of paramount importance. . . . The airways and railroads are crowded with people en route to talk personally with other people.

A study of several hundred first, second, and third line supervisors shows that before training, the average of the group could respond to only 25% of what was said.

At the end of the program, the group average had increased to 90%. A retest of this same group one year later showed an increase, however slight, rather than a decline. When the office secretary says, "Well, here it is Friday," and the boss replies, "It sure is," what are they really saying to themselves and to each other? Whether we want to love, to learn, or to work, we've got to listen to people around us.

People in a supervisory capacity have come to be particularly aware of this need to listen. As supervisors, they are concerned about a better understanding among all people.

They are especially concerned about the problems of communication within an organization.

Most of the supervisor's results are accomplished through person-to-person communication with other, and it is largely by means of these contacts that he can influence and motivate those he supervises.

o Management Tips

PROPERTY ASSESSOR TRAINING RE-ORGANIZED: EXTENDED

..... In-Service Courses
Supplement University Certificate Program

In accordance with the Departmental policy of providing the best service to Alberta municipalities, the Chief Provincial Assessor has initiated a re-organized program of in-service training for property assessors.

The new program has three aims:

• Training

- To provide an orientation and basic course for assessor-trainees.
- To provide an intermediate and advanced course for assessors on the staff of the Chief Provincial Assessor.

• Uniformity

To establish uniformity of thought and correct interpretation of the relative governing statutes.

• Development

To develop training material for all Alberta Assessors.

Two week basic course

The initial phase of the training program designed for assessor-trainees is presently in operation. Supervisory personnel from the Assessment Branch and personnel from the office of the Assessment Commissioner make up the training staff. The basic training program is of two week duration and covers such widely diversified studies as the system of surveys in Alberta, building construction technology and familiarization with the major soil types within the Province.

Intermediate Phase

After suitable field experience, the trainee will be required to attend an intermediate course of studies. Experienced assessors will be able to avail themselves of this portion of the training program in order to up-date their knowledge and techniques.

A further advanced phase is being planned to provide seminars in which senior assessors can hear lectures given by selected experts and specialists in subjects related to assessment.

"Out of Department" Phase

At planned intervals, departmental assessors will be required to attend special, out of department, short courses. These courses will be selected on the basis of their application to assessment and will be given by such training institutions as the University of Alberta and the Agricultural and Vocational Colleges.

Equipment and Samples

In addition to using some audio-visual equipment necessary in the modern training technique, monoliths displaying profiles of Alberta soils are being prepared. Soil texture samples have been collected for study together with building construction materials. A start has been made on a small herbarium displaying native grass specimens of economic importance to our Alberta livestock industry.

U of A Certificate Course is still the main requirement

Since 1958 the Public Administration Division of the Department of Extension, University of Alberta, has been offering a correspondence course in Municipal Assessment. The three year course with its periodic seminars has proved to be of excellent calibre and the Assessment Branch has sponsored and encouraged its personnel to complete the program. The certificate course has now been extended to four years in duration and it will continue to be an important part of a government assessor's educational requirement.

The new in-service training program will serve to supplement the University's Certificate course in Municipal Assessment. It was designed by the Assessment Branch because the professional assessor of today is in a position of grave responsibility and in that vital and sensitive area of municipal government, highly trained personnel are a necessity.

A man could learn much more by imitating the behaviour of a duck; keep calm and unruddled on the surface but keep paddling like mad underneath.

ANNUAL REVIEW

BOARDS AND AGENCIES

ESTABLISHED UNDER AUTHORITY OF:

- o Assessment Appeal Board Act o Alberta Housing Act 1967
- o Communal Property Act o Public Utilities Board Act
- o Local Authorities Board Act

ALBERTA ASSESSMENT APPEAL BOARD:

The year 1969 proved to be a particularly cruel one for the Assessment Appeal Board since it saw two of its three members, namely, D.A. McTavish and K.J. Spread, tender their resignations in preference for other positions. To say the least the loss of these experienced and knowledgeable men is grounds for deep concern.



During the calendar year 1969 the Board, in carrying out its duties, heard appeals in respect of over 1,400 items of assessable real estate in 100 different municipalities throughout the Province.

Without benefit of year end calculations one must add to this figure a substantial number of appeals brought on in respect of Mineral Tax Assessments, Electric Power and Pipeline Assessments, Business Tax Assessments and Equalized Assessments. Although it did not produce the work load of some of the previous years, 1969 was, nevertheless, a busy year and it is expected that 1970 will be no less so.

o K.A. Luke, Chairman

LOCAL AUTHORITIES BOARD

Forty public hearings were conducted in 1969 as compared with 46 in 1968 and 33 in 1967. One of the forty hearings was specially authorized by an order-in-council pursuant to provisions of Section 6 of The Local Authorities Board Act. This special hearing concerned an inquiry into an application by a number of ratepayers in the County of Smoky Lake No. 13 requesting separation of lands therefrom and their annexation to the County of Thorhild No. 7.

An Order constituting Mountain View Irrigation District was issued in accordance with the terms of The Irrigation Act, 1968.

On December 12, 1969 the Board discharged its financial control of the Town of St. Albert, under provisions of Section 98 (3) of The Local Authorities Board Act.

Recommendations respecting 9 Municipal Tax Exemption applications were issued in 1969, compared to 15 recommendations made in 1968 and 11 in 1967.

There were no changes in personnel during the year.

In 1969, the Board authorized 340 municipal and school debenture borrowings for amounts totalling \$122,497,881, exclusive of authorizations for advances and temporary borrowing. The following table shows the numbers and authorized amounts of debenture borrowings with comparable figures for 1969 and the previous two years.

o C.G. Macgregor, Chairman

**ALBERTA HOUSING AND URBAN RENEWAL CORPORATION**

During the year of 1969, Alberta Housing and Urban Renewal Corporation has shown substantial gains in its fields of endeavour.

The Corporation consists of four divisions: Development, Loans and Property, Finance, and Technical Services. It's activities include programs of:

- Urban Renewal
- Land Assembly
- Housing
 - o Public
 - o Student
 - o Government Staff
 - o Senior Citizens
 - o Northern (in designated areas)
 - Low Rental
 - Rental Purchase
 - Loans
 - : Direct
 - : Home Improvement
- Surveys
 - o Urban decentralization, housing needs, population trends, housing market analysis, etc.

Urban Renewal

Due to a change in federal government policy, there has been a cut-back in urban renewal activities. These activities are being replaced by strong demands in fields of housing.

Public Housing

The Corporation is currently working on fifty-three public housing projects throughout the Province. Six of these developments are complete, six nearing completion, twelve nearly ready to start construction and the remaining twenty-nine are being studied as to their feasibility.

**Senior Citizen Housing**

Senior Citizen Housing, a newly added program, is well underway with a high-rise development in Calgary and a development in the city of Edmonton in the late design and planning stages.

Student Housing

The past year saw two student housing projects completed, one at Olds and the other at Fairview. These two projects provide accommodation for 494 students. The Corporation's role was to arrange for 90% of the financing for these projects amounting to some three million dollars.

Land Assembly

The Corporation is now completing one of the largest land assembly projects of its kind in North America. This assembly lies on the South-East boundary of the City of Edmonton, consisting of approximately 4,500 acres, and will provide land for housing approximately 84,000 people, when developed. In addition, the Redwater Assembly is also nearing completion, with studies currently underway in eleven other municipalities. Land has also been purchased and subdivided in Fort Chipewyan, Calling Lake and five hamlets in the Slave Lake Region, to allow housing development for

DEBENTURE BORROWINGS AUTHORIZED BY LAB

1969			1968			1967		
	Authorized Number	Amount of Borrowings	Authorized Number	Amount of Borrowings	Authorized Number	Amount of Borrowings		
Cities	106	\$ 83,385,184	98	\$ 76,170,178	115	\$ 66,920,200		
Towns	155	9,511,931	104	6,827,394	131	6,599,521		
Villages	25	745,800	35	1,835,828	29	1,243,500		
Counties (municipal)]	4	1,442,000	7	673,000	3	189,600		
Municipal Districts]								
Schools	50	27,412,966	49	54,842,322	84	92,105,287		
Total authorized borrowings (exclusive of advance & temporary borrowings)	340	\$122,497,881	293	\$140,348,722	362	\$167,058,108		

THE COMMUNAL PROPERTY CONTROL BOARD:

Problems created by the expansion of Hutterite colonies in the past five years have been complicated first by The Communal Property Act having been challenged in the courts, and again by a degree of uncertainty among the Hutterites, real estate agents acting in their behalf, and farmers wishing to sell their lands, as to the area where a new colony might receive government approval. At the same time, some colonies were convinced by their legal advisers or others that the Act would be ruled ultra-vires of the province and so proceeded to purchase lands contrary to the provisions of the Act.



Late in 1968 the Act was upheld by a judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada, and since then the illegal purchases have involved several investigations and at least one and possibly more court actions. The Board has also developed a policy governing its recommendations in the matter of locating new colonies and in general this policy has had the approval of the government where new colonies have been established. The policy is based on three main factors:

- colonies should be a minimum of fifteen miles apart,
- not more than two colonies in the average county or municipal district, and
- not more than five per cent of the assessable farm land in a municipality to be under communal ownership.

There are, of course, other factors to be considered but any application for land not conforming to the above requirements would have little chance of success.

Four applications for new colonies were processed in 1969 and all received government approval. In addition the Board dealt with fourteen applications from existing colonies for additional acreage.

Public interest in the Hutterian Brethren and their way of life has increased greatly in the past two years, and the Board receives many inquiries from schools and individuals requesting information on their habits and how Alberta has dealt with expansion problems. Saskatchewan now has about twenty-five colonies, and the authorities there also requested information on our legislation and the methods used here in meeting the problem.

1970 will not bring integration of the Hutterites into our communities but we believe there will be continuing progress along this line. The Hutterites, especially the younger generation, are being brought into more contact with the "outside world" and they like what they see there. They are realizing that they have some responsibility to the community around them, while on the other hand, there seems less opposition to the establishment of a colony as people become aware that no concentration of colonies will be permitted in any one area. Our agricultural industry is facing almost economic disaster, particularly in the case of the small farmer, and in the process of integration perhaps we can learn something from the Hutterian Brethren!

o E.F. Breach, Chairman



WATER

SMOKE

AUMA OFFICE HAS FIRE LOSS

An explosion and fire in another part of the building, caused about \$400 damage in the Edmonton office of E. Newman, AUMA Executive Secretary, early on Saturday morning, March 14. The explosion knocked over a large pile of boxes containing gestetner paper and envelopes. Water from a burst pipe in the ceiling then soaked all the boxes as they lay in disarray. Soot from smoke covered each item in the office and its pungent odour lingers persistently. Electric power and telephone service lines were destroyed. All loss is covered by insurance.

low income people of these areas.

Government Staff

The property management section of the Loans and Mortgage Division maintains 681 Government Staff housing units, all presently occupied. More are being added to the stock almost daily as there has been a very active program in construction as well. One hundred and thirty three Government Staff housing units were started during the year. Seventy-eight of these have been completed and occupied. The balance will be ready for occupancy by the end of February.

Northern

In addition, 37 low rental, or rental purchase units have been set up for people of the low income bracket in the northern part of the province, where any type of habitable accommodation is almost non-existent.

Direct and Home Improvement Loans

In the lending field, there have been fifty-six direct loans, and 227 home improvement loans approved. This lending program is designed to give aid in remote and low income areas where other lending institutions will not place mortgages, even though the people of these areas are in extreme need of home financing help.

During 1969 the Corporation has been involved in the planning, financing, developing and/or construction of 2,496 housing units; the purchasing of some 4,800 acres of land. Total expenditures for these projects amounted to approximately 13.5 million dollars. Many studies have been done and many are underway in regard to housing needs within the Province. As a result of these studies, it would seem that next year's program will be even more extensive than that of the past.

o B.R. Orysiuk, Executive Director

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD

During the calendar year 1969 the Public Utilities Board rendered thirty decisions and issued six hundred and eight orders relative to the matters coming before it. These included decisions and orders with respect to:

- compensation for damages caused by seepage from irrigation canals:
- compensation for damages caused by the construction of municipal works:
- compensation for lands expropriated by local authorities:
- compensation for interest in lands expropriated by public utility and pipe line companies:
- compensation to a non-consenting owner under a replotting scheme:
- review of rates charged by municipally-owned public utilities:
- establishing a rate base and rate of return for gas and electric utility companies:

Of the orders issued, two hundred and seventy-eight had reference to interim orders permitting pipe line and public utility companies the right to construct facilities on privately and publicly owned lands and seventy-seven had reference to fixing compensation for such rights.



The Board approved sixty-four franchise agreements or renewals thereof between public utility companies and local authorities and sixty-two applications with respect to electric service in rural areas, including street lighting agreements.

Control of the fluid milk industry as to pricing, regulations and enforcement was under the jurisdiction of this Board until October 31, 1969. At that time, a new board, The Alberta Milk Control Board, was created, responsible to the Minister of Agriculture. The new Board's duties include the regulation and the enforcement of the regulation having to do with the fluid milk industry. Pricing as such remains under the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board.

Appointed to the new Alberta Milk Control Board were: Stewart H. Thomas, formerly of Silverwood Dairies Edmonton, as Chairman, and James M. Bentley and T. Alfred Petersen both also of Edmonton, as part-time members. All staff members of the Milk Division of the Public Utilities Board became staff members of this new Milk Control Board.

o W. Nobbs, Chairman

BRANCH ACTIVITIES REVIEWED

(Continued from Page One)

The year also saw the province start a program of land assembly for the provision of lower-cost land for housing in our burgeoning urban centres. This urban land assembly program will be continued in 1970 and it is also proposed that a new Alberta Housing Corporation be given omnibus powers to cover just about any possibility that might arise in the housing field.

Municipal financing of current operations and services should receive further help this year through increased municipal assistance grants, the removal of provincial hospital requisitions from the foundation program and the first-time authority for rural municipalities to levy a supplementary school and hospital tax on all power and pipe line assessments.

Further progress in acceptance of municipal responsibility for planning within regional terms is also expected in 1970.

We look forward to 1970 proceeding as another busy year of progress with the continued fine co-operation we have always received from all municipal administrations in Alberta

o A. W. Morrison, Deputy Minister

ASSESSMENT EQUALIZATION BOARD

Again as in previous years and in the course of the year 1969, the Alberta Assessment Equalization Board equalized assessments in respect of all municipalities in the Province. The function of apportioning the equalized assessment of each municipality amongst all School Divisions and Districts and Hospital Districts was continued to assist municipalities which would be required to provide such information.



In line with government policy and for the third successive year, the School Foundation Fund and Hospital Co-Insurance Plan millrates remained unchanged at 28 and 4 respectively. The 1969 equalized assessment in an amount of \$3,027,400,000 represents an increase of \$170,000,000 over the year 1968.

Again citing examples of the increasing costs of education in the elementary and secondary level in the year 1966 the charge for this service amounted to \$190,600,000, in 1967 \$223,600,000, in 1968 \$262,500,000 and in 1969 approximately \$296,000,000 with the breakdown as follows:

Provincial contributions including Grants, Revenue, Tuitions, etc.	\$ 161,020,000
Contributions by municipalities at 28 mills on the basis of their equalized assessments	\$ 84,400,000
Supplemental Requisitions	\$ 50,580,000
	\$ 296,000,000

It becomes increasingly evident that the equalized assessment increases which approximate 5% per year as a result of the addition of new properties added to assessment and tax rolls from year to year cannot begin to keep pace with the continued spiral in the costs of education.

o R. L. Cross, Secretary-Member

ASSESSMENT COMMISSIONER:

Expansion of the Assessment Manual during the past year consisted of the addition of several new classifications and unit cost supplements. A revision of the Oil Field Facilities section was also carried out.

Several studies were completed for the Provincial-Municipal Advisory Committee and for other Departmental considerations.

Consulting services continued to be extended to assessors, industry, municipalities and the general public to assist in the solution of assessment and taxation problems.



Assistance was provided as part of the "In Service Training Program" being conducted by the Assessment Branch. It is expected that this service will be requested on a continuing basis.

Of interest is the assistance extended during the past year to the International Association of Assessing Officers and The Canadian Tax Foundation concerning Alberta assessment

methods, framework and legislation. The Province of Quebec expressed their appreciation for the same kind of assistance in their current effort to undertake production of an Assessment Manual and prepare new legislation.

During 1969 a program was instituted to provide visual aid to assessors on building construction and component materials through the use of slides for projection on a screen. Projection equipment has been procured and during the ensuing year considerable effort will be expended to build up a comprehensive library of slides depicting construction methods and materials. Much of this will be on site photos taken by the staff of the Research Office supplemented by slides where available from industry.

The inspection staff completed inspections of general assessments in 18 towns, 13 villages (including summer villages) and 9 rural municipalities. Numerous inspections of property were carried out for the Alberta Assessment Appeal Board.

Assistance was provided to Rural Assessors with regard to the assessment of oil field equipment.

The cropyield study was continued and updated on the basis of current information supplied through the co-operation of approximately 350 farmers.

Legislative amendments, interpretations and other assistance to interested parties helped round out a successful 1969.

Our prediction of last year for increased communication between the Provinces in assessment matters has been borne out and we look forward to a continuation of this to our mutual interest.

o J. B. Laidlaw, Assessment Commissioner

ASSESSMENT BRANCH:

Demand for assessment services has continued at an unabated pace for the last several years and 1969 was no exception.

With regard to urban assessments the Branch assisted five cities with assessment services. In the last year of the sixties a general assessment was completed in Lethbridge. General assessments were completed in twelve towns and nine villages.

In the far north, complete reassessments were made for the Yukon Territory and the Town of Hay River.

In annual assessments the Departmental assessors were active in 101 towns, 162 villages, 3 national parks, Yellowknife and Whitehorse in the North.

Rural assessment service continued in great demand with general assessments being completed in one municipal district and two counties. Also general assessments were started and completed in three improvement districts and annual assessments in three others.

Assessments totalled about \$39,000,000 for electric power, approximately \$21,000,000 for A.G.T., and roughly \$81,000 for Community Antenna T.V. (CATV). The compilation of pipeline assessment was not completed at the end of the year so total figures are not yet available.

Upon requests made by Indian Reserves, Branch staff make valuations of pipelines, electric power lines, etc. as a free service to Indian bands.

The Industrial section of the Assessment Branch was very active in Improvement Districts and Special Areas in 1969. They also assisted about 20 organized municipalities with their industrial assessments.

In-service training of assessors was re-organized with the appointment of an educational supervisor and development of a new educational program. Freshly recruited assessors now receive a two-week basic course of instruction before starting their 6-12 month tutorial on-the-job training with an experienced assessor. This new program also includes refresher and advanced courses for more senior personnel. In-service training is supplementary to the more comprehensive Certificate Courses required from the University of Alberta.

Four new branch offices were opened in 1969, namely Hanna, Edson, Bonnyville and Wainwright. There are now eleven offices. Others are at Calgary, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Peace River and Red Deer.

Personnel problems showed a marked increase in 1969 with 17 assessors leaving the employ of the Branch. The main bug-a-boo seemed to be too much time spent away from home and too much trav-



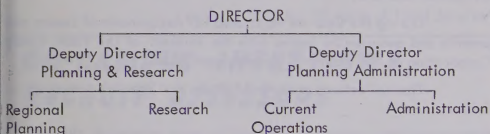
elling. A few left for more lucrative positions. It is hoped that as the decentralized offices become more firmly established, married personnel in particular, will spend less time away from home.

That magical number "7" will be with us for the next ten years. I don't know whether everyone is going to be in their seventh heaven or not but maybe we'll all get lucky.

o D.E. Mills, Chief Provincial Assessor

PLANNING BRANCH

Following an extra-ordinary turnover of qualified personnel in the latter part of 1968, the Provincial Planning Branch was re-organized early in 1969 with Roy Erickson being promoted to Deputy Director of Planning and Research and John Polonuk likewise to Deputy Director of Planning Administration. Under these two divisions the following sections were created: current operations, regional planning, research and administration. The arrival in the last two years of six young men qualified in fields allied to planning has produced a dynamic and hard working branch having staff imbued with the team spirit and approach.



A variety of planning studies and reports have been completed this past year. Much staff time and labour has been occupied with designs for parts of the New Town of Grande Cache and extensions to the New Town of Fort McMurray, land use studies, the preparation of sub-regional and general plans and the technical help given to a number of towns, hamlets and other municipalities.

A large increase in the number of appeals heard and decided upon by the Provincial Planning Board, reflects a further increase in the number of sub-division applications made and processed. The Board sat at a record number of 76 hearings and meetings for the calendar year, producing over 400 Board Orders. In mid-year, the Board obtained a new Secretary, Mr. Al Suelzle, who must have wondered what hit him shortly after taking up his new duties!

The staff looks forward to 1970 with confidence and the hope that several proposed regional and sub-regional projects will get the go-ahead signal when the Federal-Provincial 1970-75 Physical Resources Development Agreement is finalized.

o Noel Dant, Provincial Planning Director

SPECIAL AREAS BOARD

The Community Pastures were fully utilized due to a good spring run-off. Late summer rains ensured a good carryover of grass in all areas. Additional stock water was developed and improvements were made to fencing and corrals.

The Blood Indian Reservoir filled to capacity for the first time in 1969. The Fish and Wildlife Division of the Department of Lands and Forests made their fourth successive planting of Rainbow trout. Our Board built one summer kitchen at the site and provided picnic tables and comfort stations. The large crowds of fishermen picnickers made it necessary to provide twice-a-week garbage disposal from the Youngstown Shops.



Snowfall was above average but roads were kept in reasonably good condition by our fleet of 16 snowplows. Approximately \$100,000.00 was spent on replacement equipment.

Our construction crews built 90 miles of elevated grade, 37 miles scraper grade, 10 miles of blade roads and gravelled 180 miles during the year. Cost of this work was approximately \$ 900,000.00.

Assessment of 21,000 parcels of grazing land was completed and added to the tax roll for 1970 as required under the Grazing Lease Taxation Act.

The Special Areas regassing program is slowly gaining momentum and with A.R.D.A. assistance, some 73,000 pounds of grass seed was distributed for sowing on lease and titled lands.

o C.W. Edwards, Chairman

MUNICIPAL INSPECTION BRANCH

For the first time in a number of years and due to the fact that two additional inspectors were added to the staff in 1968, the inspectors were able to make an inspection of the office of every town, village, summer village, municipal district and county in 1969 even though six out of the nine inspectors are still members on the Boards of Administrators of the seven New Towns and so spend a great deal of their time in attendance at New Town Board meetings.



The summer village of Silver Sands was the only urban municipality that was incorporated in 1969. The rural county of Parkland No. 31 was established January 1, 1969.

The clearing of the townsite of Grande Cache was commenced early in 1969 and since that time installation of utilities and construction of all types of buildings in that New Town have progressed at a rapid rate. Also during the year the status of Grande Cache was changed to that of an "urban county" bringing the number of municipalities in this category to three, namely - Devon, Grande Cache and Swan Hills.

The continuing co-operation of those engaged in municipal administration with this Branch of the Department was appreciated very much. To them is extended a sincere wish for a successful and rewarding year during 1970.

o Bruce Ramsay, Chief Municipal Inspector

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

The program of hamlet development in the northern areas of the province has been proceeded with again in 1969. The funds for such development have been provided by the Northern Development Council and, in a small way, by the Improvement Districts concerned. It is hoped that this program may be continued in 1970 and beyond. The main objective of projects to date has been to provide a suitable source of potable water to each hamlet within the Improvement Districts.



The Mobile Equipment Licensing section issued over 7200 licenses and 3600 permits during 1969. Gross revenue was \$741,277.14 of which 95% will be distributed to the various municipalities in which the licensed equipment was located.

The Homeowners Tax Discount Act was amended in 1969 to allow the payment of \$100.00 to all qualified ratepayers who are in receipt of a Guaranteed Income Supplement from the Federal Government. As a result of this amendment, 13,923 ratepayers were granted a Homeowners Tax Discount based upon the \$100.00 maximum. In addition, over 192,000 ratepayers received credit for a Homeowners Tax Discount based on the \$50.00 maximum. In total over \$10,200,000.00 was paid either to the ratepayer or to the municipality as a partial payment of the 1969 tax levy.

The Data Processing Centre, in consultation with Departmental officials, has programmed a new system of numbering tax accounts. New input and output forms have been designed and, when ready, will result in a series of seminars to ensure that all personnel will be trained in the new procedures.

1970 should be a busy, but an interesting year for all concerned.

o D.R. Watson, Secretary-Accountant

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Personnel Administration continued to diversify and progress during the past year in keeping with the steady growth of Municipal Affairs. Major organization and staff changes occurred in several Branches resulting in increased recruiting and transfer activity. Overall employee turnover rose above the norm in the year due primarily to higher salaries offered in a competitive market. Staff training and development programs were continued particularly in the areas of supervisory training, alcoholism education, and sponsored courses through the adult education programs offered by all Alberta universities and Technical institutes. A new Group Life Insurance Plan, sponsored by the Government, was introduced replacing the Plan originally endorsed by the Civil Service Association. Not to overlook the arrival of Medicare in July, 1969, and increasing decentralization of Personnel Administration to the



Department.

More PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION page Ten

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

(Continued from page Nine)

More changes are in store for the coming year with introduction of a Personnel and Payroll Information System (utilizing the IBM 360 computer), which will radically affect all existing personnel forms, transactions and procedures. The system integrates payroll data, personnel and general statistics, into one continuous up-to-the-minute record. Many of the familiar regulations governing pay administration, sick leave, time and attendance recording, etc., have been brought in line with the new Public Service Act and republished. An innovation will be the introduction of a Public Service Code of conduct for all employees at an early date. Greater emphasis on personnel services and employee relations at all levels can also be expected as the Government's Human Resources Development policies become effective throughout the Province and within the Public Service.

The future looks interesting, challenging, and busy for every member of the Department of Municipal Affairs.

o R.D. Fraser, Personnel Officer

TAX RECOVERY:

Interest in Tax Recovery property increased considerably in 1969 from previous years to the point where in Improvement Districts alone it was the most active year in the history of the Tax Recovery Branch.

This strong interest resulted in seven hundred and three parcels being sold through direct and tender sales in the Improvement Districts with a revenue return of \$362,292. This compares with \$158,902 during 1968.

Seven parcels were sold for a total of \$5,280 in the Special Areas.

In Improvement Districts and Special areas, the Branch held 14 tax sales advertising 711 parcels but the actual offering at public auction was 146 as the balance were redeemed prior to the auction sale.

Twenty parcels of occupied lands sold in cities and towns brought a revenue return of \$74,539. Villages realized a return of \$45,039 from 151 sales covering both occupied and vacant properties.

Counties and Municipal Districts which require the approval of the Minister on all properties sold, disposed of 229 parcels with a revenue return of \$313,032.

Branch officials called on 80 Secretary-Treasurers and rate-payers throughout the province. The purpose of the calls was to assist Secretary-Treasurers in respect to tax recovery proceedings, land sales and tax collections, complaints and applications to the Minister applying for permission to take action to evict.

Agricultural Relief Advances

As has been the case for the previous five years, the amount issued in 1969 for Agricultural Relief Advances exceeded collections. This is accounted for by successive light crops and outright crop failures in the northern part of the province. It is expected that this trend will continue as conditions in 1969 were again not favourable in that area. Thus collections of Agricultural Relief Advances will likely be down again in 1970 and no doubt there will again be a large issue of these advances during this coming spring. A majority of the advances over the past few years have been made in the same districts. One hundred and sixty-seven new accounts amounting to \$111,124 were set up in 1969.

Advances were issued to necessitous farmers in Improvement Districts No. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 our most northern districts

	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	TOTAL
1955	\$ 927.08	\$ 294.33	\$ 1,221.41
1956	Nil	Nil	Nil
1958	1,347.60	811.45	2,159.05
1959	1,189.13	798.25	1,987.38
1962	459.41	127.60	587.01
1963	Nil	Nil	Nil
1964	1,013.70	271.36	1,285.06
1965	3,986.69	810.23	4,796.92
1966	10,700.10	1,881.95	12,582.05
1967	5,209.14	1,013.71	6,222.85
1968	6,685.53	603.89	7,289.42
1969	6,501.17	192.58	6,693.75
TOTALS	\$ 38,019.55	\$ 6,805.35	\$ 44,824.90

Special Areas

We completed another busy year in the Special Areas. Two hundred and sixty three leases were renewed and 91 amended, as well as 50 new leases issued. One hundred and seventeen Rights of Entry were processed and approximately 30 Easements and 55 Pipe Line agreements were issued. We handled two Extension Agreements with power companies to supply power to hamlets in the Special Areas. These agreements are of a five-year duration and upon expiry need the approval of the Public Utilities Board before they may be extended.

Water Development credits involving 39 Grazing Leases were handled with \$2,782 being applied and \$1,008 to be applied to future rentals. Under this policy we are able to apply credits up to 25% of the cost of the development, less any amount paid by PFRA etc. We do not apply over 25% of the rental for the lease to any one year's rental thus the reason for credits to be applied to future rentals.

We issued 95 Feed Permits covering 6,251 acres and 139 Regrassing Permits covering 15,359 acres. Also issued were 13 Cultivation Permits, 35 Grazing Permits and 28 Licenses of Occupation.

There were 10 Applications of Exchanges of Lands involving 30 quarter sections.

During the year we registered 187 Assignments of Leases and permits and endorsed 54 leases with the interest of the Farm Credit Corporation or the Industrial Development Bank.

The collections made in 1969 in the Special Areas are as follows:

Crop shares:	\$ 231,063.12
Canadian Wheat Board:	35,602.95
Payments in lieu of crop share:	4,934.88
Grazing Lease rentals:	674,682.29
Community Pastures:	85,979.17
Sale of Grass Seed:	18,078.25
Rights of Entry, Easements and Pipeline Agreements:	77,934.11
Fees:	28,131.32

Crop share collections are approximately \$90,000 less than in the previous year at this time and this is accounted for by quota restrictions. Payments from the Canadian Wheat Board were down approximately \$110,000.

Grazing lease rentals increased approximately \$40,000 because 1969 rentals were on an average one-quarter of a cent higher per acre than they were in the previous year.

Leases

It appears that Farm Credit Corporation loans to farmers and ranchers in the Special Areas have levelled off and so it is likely we will not have as large a number of leases being endorsed in the future as we have had in the past.

Oil and Gas Revenue

Drilling for oil and gas in the Special Areas and the installation of pipe lines seems to be more active than in the past years and so I believe the revenue obtained from these sources will show an increase in 1970.

o K.C. Switzer, Director

FIELD SERVICE BRANCH:

General assessments in 1969 were commenced in former Improvement Districts No. 85, 102, 125 and 138. The latter two districts were not fully completed in 1969, but it is hoped that all will be taxed on the new basis in 1970.

Lack of qualified personnel has prevented the Chief Provincial Assessor from fulfilling all our requests for general assessments, but it is anticipated that general assessments will be completed in former Improvement Districts No. 65, 101 and 147 during 1970.



Courts of Revision on annual complaints were held by the Director and Assistant Director, Mr. G.A. Arnason who dealt with the general assessment complaints has now been transferred to the Alberta Assessment Appeal Board. His successor has not been appointed.

This staff deficiency had led to some slowing down in the

BUDGET

(Continued from Page One)

area of recreational program development, as this subject has been handled exclusively by Mr. Arnason. To date we have entered into fifteen (15) recreation agreements with organized municipalities (i.e., towns and villages); and it is anticipated there will be additional areas covered by agreement in 1970.

Agreements under the Preventive Social Service Program have been entered into by Improvement Districts in the Crows Nest Pass area, at Fort McMurray, Lac La Biche and High Prairie, and negotiations are being carried on respecting this program with the Towns of Valleyview and Peace River.

Improvement District Administrators are still assisting in the work of annual assessment in their districts, and it is likely they will be asked to continue to do so for at least another year because of staffing problems in the Assessment Branch.

Our Field Service Branch office at Bonnyville was closed in August of 1969, and Mr. Hanevich was moved from there to the Lac La Biche office, as a replacement for Mr. L.J. Bartman, who was transferred to the Assessment Branch.

Our usual administrative work of hamlet services, development control, ratepayers meetings and allied matters kept the staff fully occupied, and it is anticipated that 1970 will be equally busy.

o A.R. Isbister, Director of Field Service

ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS RECRUIT ASSESSORS

A three-man team of two senior assessors and a personnel officer are again visiting colleges in Alberta and Saskatchewan to recruit prospective assessors.

Tom Cameron, a program supervisor; Don McTavish, educational supervisor; and Ken Sears, a personnel officer, scheduled visits to six centres as follows:

February 16	EDMONTON	- Northern Alberta Institute of Technology
17-18	FAIRVIEW	- Agricultural and Vocational College
19	VERMILION	- Agricultural and Vocational College
26	OLDS	- Agricultural and Vocational College
27	CALGARY	- Southern Alberta Institute of Technology
March 1-4	SASKATOON	- University of Saskatchewan Agricultural College

This year's visits to colleges follow a pattern previously established to meet the urgent need for quality in recruiting the increasing number of assessors needed for Alberta.

In the 1950's, when the Assessment Branch was in its adolescence, the hiring of three or four men per year to meet the demands for assessment services was no problem. However, in the 1960's demand for assessors increased markedly and advertising for recruits brought little response. It became obvious a change in recruiting methods was necessary. The Personnel Administration Office set up an on-campus interview program with the Technical Institutes and the Colleges in Alberta and Saskatchewan. The idea behind the new program had two main concepts. Firstly, instead of the applicant coming to the department, the department would go to the applicant. Secondly, the department could interview graduating students who were majoring in a curriculum allied to assessment methods. In the fall or winter prior to the interviewing of applicants, members of the Assessment Branch gave talks on the functions and operations of assessments at the various Technical Institutes and Colleges. Interviews took place in February and March before exam time.

The Branch has vacancies in both the urban assessment field and rural field. Urban recruits are usually from NAIT and SAIT and rural applicants from the Agricultural Colleges. In 1969 few graduating students from the Technical Institutes applied for employment, however, indications for 1970 point to a much higher interest by students. It could be the construction field is going through a slow down, and the pasture on the other side of the fence instead of looking so green is now somewhat over-grazed. Personnel hired through Agricultural Colleges and the Technical Institutes have so far proven to be of sound character and are willing workers.

o PHC

assembly and most of the remaining amount in housing for low income families, welfare recipients, senior citizens and persons living in our northern areas. The Corporation expects to borrow a substantial portion of its capital requirements from Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the proceeds from these loans are reflected in the capital receipts of the Department.

In addition to its capital program, the Corporation, from its appropriation on income account, will make grants to municipalities towards the preparation of urban renewal schemes and towards the subsidization of rentals in public housing.

The new AHC's operating budget will be \$6,765,000 compared with \$1,480,000 for its predecessor, AHURC, in 1969 - 70.

Planning

Estimates of the Provincial Planning Board include grants to regional planning commissions totalling \$515,190, an increase of \$87,000 over the previous year, and \$8,200 for planning assistance to municipalities not included in regional planning areas.

Homeowner Tax Discount costs are estimated at \$13,829,300.

The Environmental Health Services Division of the Department of Health, the pollution fighting area of the government, is in line for an increase of \$100,000 to \$770,000.

Business Taxes

Also included are \$3,250,000 to pay grants to municipalities in lieu of property and business taxes and \$210,000 to help in the construction of municipal police buildings.

One Billion in Borrowings

Authorized borrowings for the Alberta Municipal Financing Corporation was increased from \$875,000,000 to one billion dollars.

Grid-roads

The long-planned rural grid road system has been shelved for another year, a victim of pre-session paring down.

Finger lickin' good news was buried in the budget revenue estimates for 1970. The government expects to get \$23,000 from the sale of eggs by provincially-operated poultry ranches, up \$2,000 from last year.

CAMPBELL-FOWLER PRESIDENT PEACE RIVER MAYORS: REEVES

Dr. Colin Campbell-Fowler of Falher was elected 1970 president of the Peace River Mayors and Reeves Association at their annual meeting in Falher, January 12. He succeeds Mayor John Archer of Beaverlodge.

Vice-President is John Friesen of Peace River. Executive members include Jim Mazer of the MD of the Peace; Mayor Fred Dumont of High Prairie; Mayor Ian Armstrong of Fairview; Louis Damphousse, Secretary-Treasurer of Valleyview; Allan Drysdale, Grande Prairie County Councillor and Oscar Blais Grande Prairie City Alderman.

MUNICIPAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The Hon. Robert J. Higgins, B.A., L.L.B., Saint John, was appointed Minister of Municipal Affairs in New Brunswick effective February 11, 1970.

He replaced the Hon. B. Fernand Nadeau, C.A., who became Minister of Labour on the same date.

The Hon. Robert J. Higgins is the 11th Minister responsible for Municipal Affairs since the Ministry was established April 24, 1936. At that time Municipal Affairs was combined with the Department of Education. It was the Department of Education, Federal and Municipal Relations.

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Not to be occupied and not to exist amount to the same thing.

J.A.S. "PAT" CHARLTON RETIRES IN SPECIAL AREAS

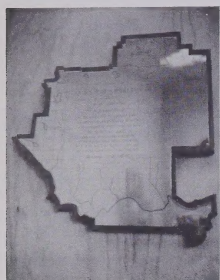
Some one hundred fellow employees and friends gathered in the Lounge of the Memorial Hall in Hanna, Friday evening January 30 to pay respects to J. A. S. "Pat" Charlton, who has retired as General Fieldman in Special Area No. 2, following a lengthy career as a civil servant in the Alberta Department of Municipal Affairs since 1952.

Chas. Edwards, chairman of the Special Areas Board in Hanna, on behalf of those attending, presented Pat with a handsome copper plaque in the form of a replica of the Special Areas. Mrs. Charlton was presented with a corsage of flowers by Mrs. Ben Logelin of Youngstown. The presentations were preceded by a social evening.

James Alexander Sproule Charlton, "Pat" as he is known to a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the Big Country and elsewhere, was born in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, February 1, 1905. He came to Alberta in 1925 and he spent



two years at the Olds Agriculture School under a Student Training Program, organized by the then Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. George Hoadley. He was later employed by the C. P. R., D. N. R. at Brooks, Alberta, from 1927 to 1933, and with the newly formed Eastern Irrigation District from 1935 to 1952 when he joined the Department of Municipal Affairs at Hanna, as an Irrigation Fieldman. During his Eastern Irrigation services he spent many years on irrigation surveys and assisted the settlers in Tiley, Rainier and Rolling Hills areas, with their land



leveling and farm ditch surveys.

In 1940 he joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and served overseas from 1941 to 1945 and saw active service with the First Division in the Italian and Northwest Europe Campaigns. Prior to government, he was a Water Master in the Brooks Division and took an active part in the creation and survey of a recreational park at Lake Newell, which later developed into one of Alberta's most popular recreational parks.

He came into Government service in March 1951 to assist in the development of irrigation plots and take over the operation of storage dams. The story of this operation was published in the 1958 February COUNSELLOR. He was promoted to General Fieldman over Special Area No. 2 in 1963.

Mr. Charlton married Viola Larson of Rolling Hills, February 20, 1941. They have two children, a daughter Diana (Mrs. Allen Scott) of Hanna, and a son Dennis of Hanna.

During his many years as a public servant, Pat also took part in many activities such as the Masonic fraternity, the Royal Canadian Legion, his church and the local golf club.

He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for over 40 years. A Past Master of Brooks Lodge No. 73, A.F. and A.M., Past Principal of Hanna Chapter No. 28 Royal Arch Masons, Past Grand District Superintendent Royal Arch Masons District No. 2, Member of the Order of High Priesthood, and the Cyprus Preceptory No. 33. He is also a member of the Eastern Star Lodge No. 44 of Hanna. Mrs. Charlton is also a Past Matron of this Order.

He is a Past President of the Royal Canadian Legion, Hanna Branch No. 25, and the President of the Navy League. His military honors include Three Battle Stars, Britain, Italy and Northwest Europe; and three Service Medals.

He is a Past President of the Hanna Golf and Country Club, and has been an ardent curler for over 40 years. He is a member of the Anglican Church, and has been a Vestry member for 25 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlton will continue to reside in Hanna, and Pat's many friends in town and country congratulate him on his lengthy record of service, coupled with best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

• Hanna Herald

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Keep smiling. It makes everyone wonder what you've been up to.

COMING EVENTS

April

- 9..... AAMDC Annual Spring Meeting.....Edmonton
29..... Alberta Municipal Finance Officers
Spring Meeting Calgary

May

- 12-15... Alberta Association of Registered Nurses
Annual Convention Calgary
28-30... Appraisal Institute of Canada
National Conference Ottawa

June

- Date to Improvement District Office Assistants
be set Triannual Conference..... Edmonton
3 - 5... Canadian Hospital Association
National Convention Edmonton
8 - 10... 32nd Annual Refresher Course
in Municipal Administration Banff
9..... Seventh Session
Eighth Federal-Provincial Conference
on Municipal Finance Statistics..... Quebec City
25-27... Canadian Public Utilities Commissioners
Annual Conference..... Fredericton

July

- 19-22... Town Planning Institute of Canada
Annual Conference Edmonton
9-18... Calgary Exhibition and Stampede..... Calgary
23-Aug 1
Klondike Exposition..... Edmonton

August

- 16-20... Ministers and Deputy Ministers
Sixth Annual Conference..... Winnipeg

Sept.

- Date to Joint Meeting: Executives of
be set AUMA - AAMDC - ASTA Edmonton
27-30... CPAC National Planning Conference..... Montreal

Oct.

- 1 - 2... Catholic Hospital Conference of Alberta
Annual Convention Edmonton
4 - 10... Sixth World Highways Conference..... Montreal
25-28... International Conference
on Assessment Administration..... Las Vegas
27-30... AUMA 64th Annual Convention..... Calgary

Nov.


- 4 - 6... Fifth National Northern Development
Conference Edmonton
12-13... Alberta Hospital Association Convention..... Lethbridge
16-19... AAMDC 62nd Annual Convention..... Edmonton

MUNICIPAL STRUCTURE REVIEW UNDERWAY IN MANITOBA

Manitoba's Local Government Boundaries Commission is examining municipal structures in the province's centennial year, 1970. The commission is turning its attention to the structure of local government boundaries as it completes its current work of reporting on metro Winnipeg.

Between the census years of 1961 and 1966 Manitoba's population increased by 41,380, most of it ---- 34,000 ---- in metro Winnipeg.

During the same period, of 105 rural municipalities in Manitoba, 88 showed a decrease in population. Of the 17 which showed increases, eight were within a 25-mile radius of metro Winnipeg, and three within a 15-mile radius of Brandon.



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